



## Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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**AGENDA DATE:** June 4, 2008

**TO:** Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

**FROM:** Front Country Trails Task Force Staff

**SUBJECT:** **Front Country Trails Management Strategy Outline**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receive a presentation and provide comments on the draft Trail Management Elements for the Front Country Trails Strategy.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff has compiled a list of elements to be incorporated in the FCT Trails Management strategy. These broad elements were derived from a review of the documents that were presented to the Task Force at previous hearings and include management strategies and programs from other jurisdictions, such as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. This outline of elements is intended to begin developing the foundation for a Trails Management Plan responsive to the unique characteristics of the FCT. A future management plan would develop the policies, programs, and processes necessary to effectively manage the recreational resource and trail facilities of the FCT.

**ATTACHMENT:** Potential FCT Trails Management Elements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara

***FCT Trail Management Elements – DRAFT For Review***

- Identify the goals of the Management Plan and develop a decision making process for the agencies to establish, enact, and implement policies, programs, and actions.
- Assess existing inventory of trails, including user surveys and physical assessment, and establish an overall management strategy for the Front Country Trails (FCT) as well as determine the use for each trail, as necessary (suitable and sustainable).
- Establish individual management, maintenance recommendations, and risk tolerance for each trail and develop a reporting system for incidents. Establish realistic and ongoing risk assessment and trail inspection program
- Utilize good assessment techniques and work to understand any physical problems, hazard and safety issues, resource concerns, user conflicts and user satisfaction with the trail, and the identify the work that is needed to correct or maintain.
- Utilize trail construction knowledge on how to fix the problem trail areas in a way that does not create new problems. Do more than just band-aid fixes and get water off the trails. Utilize professionals that possess the experience, knowledge, equipment, and specifications to solve difficult issues as necessary.
- Standardize and adopt a program for trail etiquette and conflict resolution.
- Establish a protocol for and a system to monitor and enforce use on trails and trail users.
- Establish a program for volunteers to work with land management agencies.
- Potentially incorporate an Adopt-a-Trail program and a process to establish the skill level of the adoptee group matched to the type of trail work needed. Identify level of knowledge, skill, ability, and commitment.
- Make clear to users how they can get involved in care efforts, and don't expect volunteers to solve all trail problems.
- Establish a process for future trails planning and strategies for expanding trails system
- Identify funding costs and needs (existing and future)